

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /116 W

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R 291637Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4622

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

USUN NEW YORK 1169

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 5168

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, GR

SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS OF PRESS CENSORSHIP

GENEVA FOR BUMMUM

1. A REPORT FILED BY AP CORRESPONDENT ATHENS JULY 29 ALLEGED POLICE APPROACHED EDITORS APOYEVMATINI WITH ORDER THAT STORY NOT BE PUBLISHED AFTERNOON'S ISSUE CONCERNING "PENDING RESIGNATION PRESIDENT GHIZIKIS" AND ANOTHER STORY CONCERNING POSSIBILITY GENERAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD WITHIN SIX MONTHS. POLICE ALLEGEDLY CONTAINED THREAT THAT APOYEVMATINI WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO CIRCULATE IF IT DID NOT COMPLY.

2. IN FACT, JULY 29 EDITION APOYEVMATINI APPEARED IN TWO VERSIONS. ONE DID CARRY MAJOR HEADLINED STORY ALLEGING PRESIDENT GHIZIKIS HAD OFFERED HIS RESIGNATION
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TWICE THIS LAST WEEK, I.E. JULY 23 AND JULY 26. THAT

SAME VERSION OF JULY 29 EDITION ALSO CARRIED PROMINENT FRONT-PAGE BOX QUOTING INTERVIEW FOREIGN MINISTER MAVROS GAVE TO SUNDAY TIMES TO EFFECT THAT "AS SOON AS INTERNATIONAL CRISIS HAS PASSED, THE GOVERNMENT WILL PREPARE THE COUNTRY FOR ELECTIONS". OTHER EDITIONS OF JULY 29 APOYEVMATINI CARRIED NEITHER STORY.

3. EMBASSY CURRENTLY ATTEMPTING VERIFY WITH EDITORIAL PERSONNEL OF APOYEVMATINI WHETHER ALLEGATIONS CONTAINED AP STORY ARE CORRECT. MEANWHILE, IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT UNDERSECRETARY TO PM LAMBRIAS HAS CALLED SPECIAL MEETING ALL POLITICAL WRITERS FOR 1730 HOURS JULY 29 AND ANOTHER MEETING FOR NEWSPAPER EDITORS AT 2100 HOURS THIS EVENING.
TASCA

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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US Department of State
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30 JUN 2005

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